

THAT ILFORD BOGEY AGAIN—BUT WANDERERS SNATCH WIN

Ilford 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2

ILFORD'S Newbury Park ground is not Wycombe Wanderers' favourite venue. In their last two visits, there has been some hitch to the team arrangements and Tuesday evening proved no exception to the rule. The Wanderers' last appearance saw them arrive after the scheduled start and in 1966 they were two men short.

And Tuesday once again proved a harrowing time for officials and spectators alike. Wycombe were forced to survive the opening 15 minutes without goalkeeper John Maskell, who, along with colleague Ian Rundle, arrived late after travelling from Oxford.

While Maskell and Rundle were hurtling up the north circular, manager-coach Barry Darvill was forced to switch his side to suit the situation. Keith Samuels wore the green jersey, with Vince Faulkner returning at centre-half. In the forward line Les Merrick led the attack, with Paul Bates on the left wing.

It was certainly an eventful evening for Samuels who, after keeping goal so splendidly, came out onto the field and snapped a glorious goal.

SAMUELS TESTED

In the opening stages it was imperative that Wycombe's ten men contained the Ilford attack. This they did with almost arrogant ease. Samuels was called into action on only two occasions, first to punch out a corner and, secondly, to gather a waist-high cross.

Ironically enough it was after Maskell had arrived that the home attack livened up. Meredith was unlucky to see his fierce drive beat the Wycombe keeper but hit the woodwork.

Slowly but surely Wycombe gradually took control. Horseman was only denied a goal when, after a brilliant run past four defenders, keeper James dived courageously at his feet.

In the 33rd minute Wycombe went ahead. Worley pushed a forward pass to Horseman, who flicked the ball to Samuels, and Keith scored from outside the box with a brilliant half-volley which cannoned in off the underside of the bar.

Worley and Horseman both had a hand in the Wanderers' second goal in the 41st minute. Len set up an opening for Horseman who won a corner. From the flag-kick Paul Bates' corner entered the net just inside the right hand post.

In the opening stages of the second half Samuels was prominent for the clever way he made space for himself by intelligent running off the ball. Barry Baker also shined for his immaculate passing.

Ilford's rather inept team-work could do little to upset Wycombe's rhythm and the Wanderers were content to consolidate their lead, although Worley, Merrick, Bates and Horseman all went close with good individual efforts.

The home side raised a glimmer of hope for their supporters when they pulled a goal back after 85 minutes. Cunningham's cross reached the unmarked Smith who easily beat Maskell from 12 yards.

However, the match ended on a note of Wycombe dominance as Horseman saw his fine drive well held by James.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; J. Beck, P. Eyes; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuels, L. Merrick, A. Horseman, P. Bates. Subs: I. Rundle.